



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

METEOROLOGICAL PECULIARITIES OF NEW ENGLAND.

BY WILLIAM F. CHANNING, M. D.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, May 1st, 1874.)

For twenty years I have noticed an invariable coincidence between the appearance of ice in quantity on the Newfoundland Banks or neighborhood, and an unusual, often constant rainfall in New England. This rainfall appears to be in proportion generally to the amount of ice, and it is followed, I think always, by a dry period, perhaps a drought of several weeks, the drought apparently having some proportion to the excess of previous rainfall.

The appearance of ice on the Banks or neighborhood varies in different years, from April to June, and the wet spring and summer drought are early or late accordingly. Many years the quantity of ice is small and the disturbance of the rainfall is hardly noticeable. I am aware how many observations are required to establish a meteorological law for any part of the earth's surface. I therefore only venture to ask attention to these coincidences.

There is another obvious peculiarity in the meteorology of the New England coast, due to its geographical position. The projection of Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island into the Ocean may be compared to a nose on the Atlantic profile of the country. It happens hence that storms following a course parallel with the coast, but either just inside or outside the coast line, will in the one case pass entirely inside the projecting shore of New England, and in the other, sweep over Eastern New England, without warning, while the rest of the country enjoys average clear weather. From these two proceedings, land storms passing inside, and sea storms extending over the coast from Cape Ann to New London, it results that the weather predictions are more frequently falsified over this region than perhaps on any other part of the coast or interior. And yet no part of the American Coast is more densely thronged with vessels in both the coasting and foreign trade.

It would seem desirable, for the study of the ocean storms, which sometimes thus touch New England, (as well probably as Hatteras), to extend the Signal Service to the Bermudas (by a special cable) and also to Nantucket, and generally to extreme outlaying points on the coast.